

Appendix 2: Pathways through the GIS *Guide to Good Practice*

The following sub-section contains some suggested optimum documentation pathways. These relate to tasks you will frequently undertake during the course of GIS database design, use, maintenance and archiving. In each case a routine GIS task is identified, and the relevant documentation check-lists (i.e. the bulleted lists that feature throughout the guide) are highlighted. The pathways presented here are not intended to be exhaustive nor to be viewed as a prescriptive list. Tasks frequently overlap and it is often the case within archaeology that the individuals involved in data entry are also intimately involved in the tasks of overall database management and archiving.

Practitioners are thus encouraged to use the pathways presented here as templates to develop their own 'good practice' check-lists. These can be fixed to the wall alongside computers, attached to devices such as digitisers and scanners or distributed as 'mini-guidelines' to other practitioners within their organisation.

Digitising a Mapsheet

Here the following documentation check-lists should be consulted each time a mapsheet is incorporated into the overall GIS database:

- Maps and Plans (2.5)
- The Vector Data Model (2.1)
- Digitising (2.5)

Scanning a Mapsheet

Here the following documentation check-lists should be consulted each time a mapsheet is incorporated into the overall GIS database:

- Maps and Plans (2.5)
- The Raster Data Model (2.1)
- Scanning (2.5)

Integrating an Aerial Photograph

Here the following documentation check-lists should be consulted each time an aerial photograph is incorporated into the overall GIS database:

If the photograph is to be scanned:

- Aerial photography (2.5)
- The Raster Data Model (2.1)
- Scanning (2.5)

If it is to be digitised:

- Aerial photography (2.5)
- The Vector Data Model (2.1)
- Digitising (2.5)

If heads-up digitising is to be used:

- Aerial photography (2.5)

- The Raster Data Model (2.1)
- Scanning (2.5)
- The Vector Data Model (2.1)
- Digitising (2.5)

Integrating SMR-based Data#

Here the following documentation check-lists should be consulted each time SMR data is to be integrated within the overall GIS database:

For the Spatial component:

- Maps and Plans (2.5)
- Integrating textural and Numeric Data (2.5)
- The Vector or Raster data model as required (2.1)

For the attribute component:

- Issues to consider when structuring and organising a flexible attribute database (2.1)
- Data Standards (2.3)

Designing a GIS Database#

Here the following documentation check-lists should be consulted during the planning stage of the process:

- Combining and Integrating Attribute Databases (2.1)
- Layers and Themes (2.3)
- Choice of Vector, Raster or Combined Forms of Spatial Database (2.5)
- Copyright Issues (2.7)

Routine Maintenance on a GIS Database#

Here the following documentation check-lists should be regularly consulted:

- Sources of Data (2.8)
- Processes Applied (2.8)
- Dublin Core Metadata (2.8)